

SIGNIFICANT RANGE EXTENSION OF *SPIALIA PHLOMIDIS* (H.-S.) IN BULGARIA (LEP.: HESPERIIDAE)

STANISLAV ABADJIEV

Institute of Zoology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 1, Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria.

E-mail: abadjiev@mac.com

The Persian Skipper *Spatialia phlomidis* (Herrich-Schäffer, [1845]) is considered great rarity in Bulgaria. It was reported for the first time by de Jong (1978: 52), mentioning material from Rhodopi: Asenovgrad. Three years later Krzywicki (1981: 45) recorded it from the Struma River Valley, Kresna. In 1993, a third locality was found, Mt Slavyanka, Hambar Dere (Kolev, 1994: 152). Adding the above, Kolev expressed the opinion that in the previously reported localities the species occurrence is doubtful.

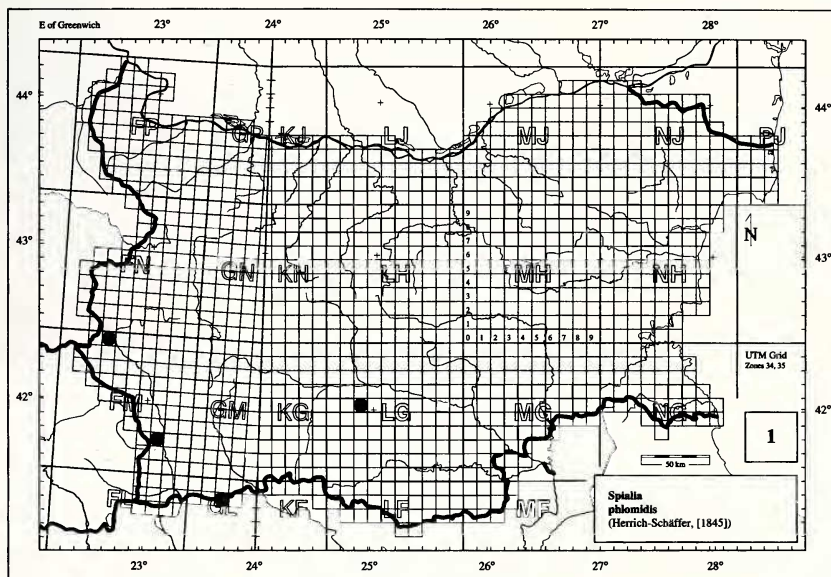


Figure 1. UTM map showing the distribution of *Spatialia phlomidis* in Bulgaria: Struma River Valley: 34TFM39: Zemen Gorge: Skakavitsa: 15—16.VI.2000: S. Abadjiev & V. Tuzov leg. (collections S. Abadjiev, S. Beshkov and National Museum of Natural History, Sofia; V. Tuzov, Moscow), 34TFM72: Kresna: 15.VII.1974: M. Krzywicki leg. (Krzywicki, 1981: 45); Slavyanka: 34TGL28: Hambar Dere: 1600 m: 11.VII.1993: Z. Kolev leg. et coll. (Kolev, 1994: 152, 153; Fig. 1); Rhodopi: 35TLG25: Asenovgrad: [350 m] (Zoologische Staatssammlung, München) (de Jong, 1978: 52).

In the middle of June 2000, during a trip accompanied by my friend and colleague Vasily Tuzov (Moscow, Russia), a new colony of the species was encountered in

Zemen Gorge, Skakavitsa. The discovery of *Spialia phlomidis* here represents a significant extension of the known range of the species. All the specimens collected here have been found flying in a dry calcareous river bed (Fig. 2). The first date of collection, 15 June, also extends its flight period; all the previous records have been from July (11, 15) (Krzywicki, 1981: 45, Kolev, 1994: 152). Natural hostplants and early stages still remain unrecorded in Europe (Tolman & Lewington, 1997: 266).



Figure 2. Habitat of *Spialia phlomidis* (H.-S.) in the Struma Valley, Zemen Gorge, Bulgaria.

References

- de Jong, R., 1978. Monograph of the genus *Spialia* Swinhoe (Lepidoptera, Hesperiiidae). *Tijdschr. Ent.* **121** (3): 23-146, Pls 1-7.
- Kolev, Z., 1994. *Spialia phlomidis* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1845) confirmed for Bulgaria (Lepidoptera: Hesperiiidae). *Phegea* **22** (4): 151-155.
- Krzywicki, M., 1981. Anmerkungen zur Tagfalterfauna Bulgariens. *Nota lepid.* **4** (1-2): 29-46.
- Tolman, T. & Lewington, R., 1997. *Butterflies of Britain & Europe*. Harper Collins, London - Glasgow - New York - Sydney - Auckland - Toronto - Johannesburg, 320 pp., A, B+104 Pls.
-
-